United Nations A/C.6/73/SR.2

General Assembly
Seventy-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
2 November 2018

Original: English

# Sixth Committee

**Summary record of the 2nd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 3 October 2018, at 3 p.m.

*Chair*: Ms. Kremžar (Vice-Chair) ..... (Slovenia)
*later*: Mr. Luna (Vice-Chair) ..... (Brazil)

## Contents

Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be sent as soon as possible, under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, to the Chief of the Documents Management Section (dms@un.org), and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org/).

18-16407 (E)

Please recycle

*In the absence of Mr. Biang (Gabon), Ms. Kremžar (Slovenia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism** (*continued*) (A/73/125)

1. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that Islam was a religion of mercy which taught that killing one person was equivalent to killing all of humankind and saving one life was equivalent to saving the whole world. The Maldives therefore condemned all acts of terrorism, particularly those committed in the name of Islam, and strongly believed that the international community needed to take a cooperative and coordinated approach to combating terrorism in all its forms.

2. Despite its small size, his country was doing its part by taking an array of measures to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The Prevention of Terrorism Act of 2015 and the Prevention of Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Act of 2014 had been enacted to help law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial authorities deal with foreign terrorist fighters and those providing financial or material support to terrorist or violent extremist organizations. The National Counter Terrorism Centre had been established in 2016 to provide a common platform to facilitate information and intelligence sharing and to synchronize inter-agency activities to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism adopted in 2017 was aimed at tackling the phenomenon of violent extremism through a whole-of-society approach and included programmes that were designed to build resistance to radicalizing ideologies at the community level and to empower women and young people. Participating in or providing support for terrorist activities overseas by Maldivians had been made a criminal offence in his country. The Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System had been introduced at the main international airport and seaport to collect intelligence, question travellers suspected of seeking to take part in conflicts abroad and prevent them from departing or entering the country.

3. His Government believed that its counter-terrorism strategy had to be part of a global, comprehensive approach and greatly appreciated the assistance of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with capacity-building, raising awareness and formulating new policies and strategies.

4. **Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore) said that terrorist acts ran counter to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, undermined global peace, security, prosperity and the rule of law, and could not be justified under any circumstances.

5. Singapore had adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that called for the continuous enhancement of the country's terrorism response capabilities. In recognition of the vital role that the community played in combating terrorism, his Government had strengthened its partnership with religious organizations and community leaders to counter the spread of extremist ideologies. The strategy was supported by a robust legal and regulatory regime and included a framework for combating money-laundering and terrorism financing that had been deemed strong by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). New laws had been enacted to grant security forces the powers necessary to address the threat of terrorism as effectively as possible.

6. Singapore supported the call for a strong, sustained and coordinated global response to terrorism. It was a party to 14 international counter-terrorism agreements and was committed to implementing them. He commended Kazakhstan for having initiated consultations on the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, which Singapore had signed recently. As the Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2018, Singapore had identified counter-terrorism as one of its priorities and would soon be hosting the South-East Asia Counter-Terrorism Symposium, which aimed to foster greater counter-terrorism cooperation in the region.

7. The United Nations had an important role to play in coordinating the global response to terrorism. His delegation supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/284 following the sixth review of the Strategy. Singapore commended the Secretary-General for having convened the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in 2018 and acknowledged the important role that the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and other United Nations bodies played in counter-terrorism efforts. He suggested that a representative of the Office of Counter-Terrorism be invited to take part in the Committee's discussions.

8. The working group established in 2017 with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism had been making slow progress. His delegation looked forward to participating

in discussions concerning draft article 3 [18], which pertained to the relationship between the draft convention and other legal regimes, and would work with other delegations to try to reach agreement on outstanding issues.

9. **Mr. Luna** (Brazil), recalling that resolution 72/284 had been adopted by the General Assembly, the most inclusive and democratic body of the United Nations, under agenda item 118 entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", and was the culmination of an intense six-week-long consultation process aimed at ensuring that the Strategy reflected the collective voice of the Member States to eliminate terrorism, said that the Committee should engage in further reflection on how the current agenda item could be more efficiently considered so as to avoid overlap and duplication with the policy discussions held biennially at plenary level to review the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. His delegation considered that, as the Committee was dedicated to legal issues, the best alternative to rationalize its discussions would be to focus its debates on the outstanding legal questions in the realm of counter-terrorism.

10. The current absence of a universally agreed definition of international terrorism was detrimental to the common goal of eliminating it. His delegation underscored the importance of overcoming the stalemate in negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as a matter of urgency and of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, to provide the strong political push needed to conclude the draft convention. The Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 could be reconvened to carry out preparatory work prior to the convening of such a conference.

11. It was important to have a proper understanding of the linkages between terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism. Although those three phenomena could be linked in specific circumstances, as in the recruitment efforts of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), they were not automatically related. Racism, xenophobia and homophobia, for example, could lead to forms of violent extremism that had nothing to do with terrorism. The conflation of the concepts of violent extremism and terrorism could lead to the justification of an overly broad application of counter-terrorism measures, including against forms of conduct that should not qualify as terrorist acts. Nor did terrorism have universal or intrinsic linkages with transnational organized crime. While terrorism represented a threat to international peace and security, transnational organized crime was a matter of public security.

12. While States were united in their desire to eliminate international terrorism, the questionable legality of some counter-terrorism measures made them divisive. Counter-terrorism efforts would undermine the values they sought to uphold and foster extremism conducive to terrorism if they were not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. In that connection, measures to combat the use of new communications technologies by terrorist organizations must not infringe on the rights to freedom of expression and privacy. The surveillance or interception of communications by States, including extraterritorially, could have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

13. Some States had been attempting to depart from the current collective security system by embracing actions that seemed to reflect pre-Charter understandings of the use of force, including attempts to reinterpret the law regarding the content and scope of self-defence, especially its applicability in relation to non-state actors. Some States sometimes added the criteria of the unwillingness or inability of the territorial State to act as a condition for such action. Brazil disagreed with that approach for many reasons.

14. First, a general principle of law held that exceptions to rules must be interpreted restrictively. Accordingly, although Article 51 of the Charter recognized the inherent right of States to self-defence, it was an exception to Article 2, paragraph 4, which referred specifically to "States". Since Article 51 must be interpreted in light of Article 2, paragraph 4, self-defence should be interpreted as a response to an armed attack undertaken by or attributable to a State.

15. Second, the International Court of Justice had also made clear in its judgment in the case concerning *Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America)* that the use of force against a non-State actor could not be justified as an exercise of the right of self-defence, unless the territorial State had sent or had had substantial involvement in the acts of the non-State actor. In its advisory opinion concerning *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, the Court had reaffirmed that Article 51 of the Charter recognized the existence of an inherent right of self-defence in the case of an armed attack by one State against another State.

16. Third, it was also clear from the *travaux préparatoires* of the Charter and the post-war context in which it had been drafted that its authors could not have intended for the right of self-defence to be used to

justify the use of force in conflicts other than those among States.

17. Fourth, although the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties allowed for the consideration of subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties, the threshold for a tacit agreement between the 193 States parties to the Charter on the reinterpretation of Article 51 had not been met and the State practice being invoked by those seeking such reinterpretation was erratic and ambiguous. Indeed, a large number of States, including the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, had cautioned against such reinterpretation and had called for an open and transparent debate on the issue. All countries had a stake in the issue of the legality of the use of force.

18. **Ms. Argüello González** (Nicaragua) said that her country was deeply concerned about the wars being waged under the banner of "war on terrorism", causing deaths, violations of the human rights of millions of people and mass refugee flows. Nicaragua condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the light of the growing number of terrorist attacks perpetrated against peoples and Governments and wished to express its solidarity with all victims of such attacks.

19. Condemnations of terrorism must go beyond words and be reflected in concrete measures to prosecute, bring to justice and extradite those committing terrorist acts; above all, such acts must not to be supported or financed through the application of double standards, whereby groups whose intention was to overthrow legitimately constituted Governments were viewed as "moderate armed opposition".

20. Nicaragua reaffirmed its readiness to make every effort to help conclude a convention on terrorism and called on all Member States to demonstrate flexibility towards that end. Nicaragua also remained firmly committed to the integrated implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and had therefore participated actively in the sixth biennial review of the Strategy. Nicaragua supported the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and had also taken part in the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

21. Terrorists were sowing the seeds of insecurity and destruction and provoking humanitarian crises with unimaginable consequences. For that reason, the United Nations must work to promote respect, peace, sovereign security, justice and human solidarity. Her Government would continue to serve the ideals of the motherland and of liberty and would make every effort to promote stability, security and peace as preconditions for development.

22. **Ms. Onanga** (Gabon) said that terrorism was not only a threat to human life and dignity but a negation of civilization. No cause, ideology or religion could justify the deadly attacks carried out against law enforcement authorities and civilian populations around the world. Her Government condemned such heinous acts, whose perpetrators showed no respect for human life and values, and expressed its solidarity with the Governments and peoples affected by them. However, terrorism should not be associated with any religion, culture or ethnic group.

23. In adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had demonstrated their commitment to combating international terrorism in a holistic manner. That momentum had led to the consolidation of the legal framework and tools used to combat terrorism with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly following the sixth review of the Strategy. Through the review, Member States were able to expand the counter-terrorism architecture at the international and regional levels by placing counter-terrorism in the context of conflict prevention and sustainable development, taking into account the root causes of terrorism and raising awareness of the plight of victims of terrorism.

24. Ever since the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001), the United Nations had duly provided the Member States with the necessary assistance to enable them to combat terrorism effectively. Gabon supported Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2354 (2017), which underscored the urgent need for cooperation and information sharing among States.

25. While all countries faced the threat of terrorism and new technologies, they did not all have equal capacity to combat the phenomenon, owing to the high costs involved and the sophisticated methods employed by terrorists. Her delegation therefore called for capacity-building assistance for developing countries, and those on the African continent in particular, that took account of their specific needs and the threats they faced. Strengthened cooperation was therefore needed with regard to the exchange of information among the competent national authorities and between government agencies and private sector entities, such as information technology and shipping companies and airlines.

26. Gabon believed that combating terrorism was a collective responsibility and that actions in that regard must be consistent with commitments to respect human

rights and to combat poverty. That was why it had ratified almost all the United Nations instruments that formed the legal framework for international efforts to combat terrorism. Her delegation called on members of the international community to overcome the differences that stood in the way of finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

27. **Mr. Korbieh** (Ghana) said that terrorist groups had dramatically changed their modus operandi, transforming terrorism into a growing security threat of alarming proportions that transcended borders and could only be addressed through concerted national and international measures. Greater cooperation was needed at all levels with regard to intelligence sharing, early warning systems, capacity-building and technology transfer. In that connection, Ghana called for enhanced international cooperation, coordination and technical assistance to enable States to fully and effectively implement Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017), which focused on foreign terrorist fighters, including the timely sharing of information and tailored assistance, to help them address the recruitment, operationalization, return and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters. The importance of international cooperation to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters had also been underlined in General Assembly resolution 72/284, reflecting the desire of the international community to present a united front in the fight against terrorism and its commitment to the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars.

28. Ghana was committed to combating money-laundering and terrorist financing and had passed the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Anti-Money-Laundering Act in 2014, bringing its laws in line with international standards, clarifying the authority of the High Court to freeze terrorist assets and granting the Financial Intelligence Centre greater authority to request information on currency transaction reports. The country's financial intelligence unit had also been admitted into the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units in 2014.

29. In 2016, Ghana had become the first member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to conduct a national risk assessment on money-laundering and terrorist financing, in line with FATF recommendations, and also the first State member of ECOWAS to undergo the second round of mutual evaluation conducted by the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa. Ghana was implementing an action plan to rectify the strategic deficiencies relating to terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction identified in the Action Group's report. Ghana had also taken steps to criminalize terrorism, the financing of terrorist activities and the provision of support for terrorist acts

30. **Mr. Yedla** (India) said that the scourge of terrorism was a global problem, as terrorists had developed the means to choose the place and time of their strikes to cause the maximum possible damage and the death of innocent people. India condemned all acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, whatever their motivation.

31. The South Asia region had been deeply affected by the activities of Al-Qaida, the Taliban, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and other terrorist organizations, which were increasingly linked by terrorist financing networks, social media platforms on which they disseminated their ideologies of hatred, and the arms trade. Some countries were even sponsoring those organizations and providing them safe haven to fulfil their political agendas. From a legal standpoint, the only effective way to disrupt those linkages and networks was through concerted international cooperation, including through extradition, prosecution, information exchange and capacity-building. Although discussions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had had little impact on the ground and Security Council sanctions committees had become selective tools owing to their opaque working methods and politicized decision-making, the United Nations was nonetheless best placed to lead that effort.

32. India was a party to all the United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and firmly believed that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism would ensure accountability and justice and enhance dialogue and understanding among the Member States. The inability of States to agree on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism was one of the most significant lacunae in the international legislative framework for combating terrorism. The early finalization and adoption of the draft convention would reflect the commitment of States to cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

33. His Government's own counter-terrorism efforts included exchanging information, building capacity for effective border control, preventing the misuse of communications technologies, monitoring illicit financial flows and cooperating in investigations and judicial processes. India welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and would support its work with a voluntary contribution of US$ 550,000. It also welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene the United Nations High-level Conference of

Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

34. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba), reiterating her country's unwavering resolve to combat terrorism and its condemnation of terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, irrespective of their motivation, including in cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved, said that Cuba likewise condemned any action to encourage, support, finance or conceal any terrorist act, method or practice. Terrorism could not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and must be combated through a holistic approach, combining direct confrontation, prevention and measures to eradicate its root causes. Cuba reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and emphasized that the responsibility for its transparent implementation lay with the Member States. Cuba also supported the multilateral efforts aimed at consolidating the central role of the General Assembly in the implementation of the Strategy.

35. The harmful practices whereby certain States financed, supported or promoted subversive acts aimed at "regime change" and disseminated messages of intolerance and enmity towards other peoples, cultures and political systems with the help of modern information and communications technologies were violations of the Charter and international law. Cuba reiterated its condemnation of unilateral acts by certain States that took it upon themselves to certify conduct and to establish politically motivated lists, in violation of international law. Such acts undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in combating terrorism. The international community could not accept that, under the banner of a so-called fight against terrorism, certain States carried out acts of aggression, directly or indirectly, against sovereign peoples and committed flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Cuba also firmly rejected the manipulation of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as an instrument for use against any country.

36. Cuba was a party to 18 international conventions on terrorism, and it reaffirmed its determination to continue working to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in the adoption of measures and the elaboration of a broad legal framework to fight that scourge. It reiterated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would fill in existing legal lacunae, and it was in favour of convening an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to provide an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

37. In defence of its independence, sovereignty and dignity, Cuba had for decades suffered the consequences of terrorist acts that had left 3,478 people dead and 2,099 disabled. The terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who had masterminded the explosion in mid-flight of a Cubana de Aviación airliner 42 years earlier, resulting in the death of 73 persons, had remained at large, with the shameful complicity of the Government of the United States, until his death. The Cuban people were outraged that the victims of that horrendous crime would never see justice served.

38. Cuba had never participated in the organization, financing or commission of an act of terrorism against any country, and it had never assisted and would never assist acts of international terrorism. Cuban territory had never been used and never would be used to organize, finance or commit terrorist acts against any country. Her Government reiterated its support for multilateral and bilateral cooperation to counter international terrorism and was determined to work with all countries on preventing and suppressing terrorist acts, wherever they were committed.

39. **Ms. Schneider Rittener** (Switzerland) said that her Government strongly condemned the abhorrent and unacceptable acts carried out by terrorists and wished to express its solidarity with the victims and their families. Recognizing that the response to terrorism must be as flexible and multifaceted as the threat itself, Switzerland had been working intensively to strengthen its laws over the years to enable it to combat terrorists as effectively as possible, and had adopted its first national action plan to prevent violent extremism.

40. As always, respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law was the only means of combating terrorism in a sustainable and effective manner. Her Government therefore supported all international initiatives aimed at affirming and strengthening respect for international law and human rights. In particular, Switzerland had contributed to the preparation and dissemination of the document entitled "Guidance to States on human rights-compliant responses to the threat posed by foreign fighters", drafted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the request of the Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which could serve as a model for the development of other best practice guides to promote and protect human rights and apply the principles of the rule of law.

Switzerland was also supporting a project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to combat terrorism and promote international law.

41. The international community must ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism did not impede efforts to assist victims of armed conflict and other activities undertaken in accordance with international humanitarian law. Switzerland therefore continued to support the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, provided that such a convention would explicitly and effectively guarantee respect for international humanitarian law.

42. Switzerland believed in the key role that the United Nations played in combating terrorism and supported the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the efforts of that Office to ensure a harmonized and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Switzerland, in its role as co-Chair of the Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, placed particular emphasis on the gathering, sharing and use of evidence, administrative measures, juvenile justice and the role of women. Switzerland was convinced that the international community needed to work together to eradicate the scourge of terrorism and called on the Member States to coordinate their efforts and learn to trust one another in that regard.

43. **Mr. Arrocha Olabuenaga** (Mexico) said that the terrorist threat was not an abstraction but a tragic daily reality in many countries and communities. One of the greatest challenges facing the international community was keeping pace with the constantly evolving methods used by terrorist groups, which had become adept at disseminating their radical ideologies using social medial networks and the Internet. Through those propaganda platforms, they spread ideologies that fuelled extremism, violence and intolerance alarmingly and directly to the most vulnerable groups, namely young people and women. That made it all the more necessary to focus counter-terrorism measures on addressing the underlying causes of the spread of terrorism, including social factors such as discrimination, frustration and exclusion, which terrorists used as arguments to recruit new members.

44. Victims of terrorism should always be treated with dignity and respect and assured access to justice; they could also play a key role in countering extremist narratives and hate speech.

45. His Government supported the position of the Secretary-General that States should strengthen, enhance and promote the effective use of the different counter-terrorism instruments and measures. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was particularly valuable in that regard, especially through its emphasis on prevention, development and inclusion. Mexico stood ready to work with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to implement the Strategy. His Government also valued the good practices shared as part of the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and the emphasis that the participants had placed on the importance of linkages between the work of the United Nations and national counter-terrorism efforts for ensuring transparency and efficiency and avoiding duplication of effort.

46. Nonetheless, a number of institutional challenges stood in the way of effective counter-terrorism efforts, foremost among them being the finalization and adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The legal harmonization of counter-terrorism measures with respect for international humanitarian law was more pressing and necessary than ever before. Access to humanitarian assistance should never be denied in the fight against terrorism. The Security Council had a key role to play in that regard. Mexico would continue to work to strengthen multilateral counter-terrorism strategies, with due regard for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

47. His Government, like those of the other States members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, was concerned that the frequent invocation of Article 51 of the Charter as a justification for taking military action against terrorist groups could lead to a de facto increase in exceptions to the general prohibition of the use of force established in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter. His delegation therefore called for thorough consideration of that matter by the Member States.

48. Mexico strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and wished to express its solidarity with Governments and families that had been victims of terrorist attacks. The fundamental, long-term solution to the challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism was social in nature, through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inclusion, education, opportunities for young people, respect for diversity, democracy and social cohesion. Hate speech, racism and exclusion could only exacerbate the problem. Governments must not entertain such ideas, much less policies that only spread the very things that they were clumsily trying to prevent.

49. **Ms. Tan** (Brunei Darussalam) said that globalization and modern information and communications technologies had enabled terrorists to diversify their methods, turning terrorism into an omnipresent threat to international peace and security that knew no borders. In addition to using traditional weapons of war, terrorists also employed everyday items and dual-use goods, such as fertilizers, to spread fear and destruction. Brunei Darussalam condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and believed that it should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

50. Her Government was a party to a number of international instruments and had put in place domestic laws to limit access to the tools of terrorism and to ensure that perpetrators of terror were brought to justice. The Anti-Terrorism Order gave effect to the country's international obligations and provided for the confiscation of assets belonging to terrorists or their organizations. The Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam had been established to implement the Anti-Terrorism Regulation of 2013 in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions. Convinced that counter-terrorism should not be the sole responsibility of security, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and that the public played an important role in ensuring safety and security, her Government had adopted a whole-of-nation approach to countering terrorism. Religious and community leaders often engaged in dialogue with young people to ensure that religious teachings were not being distorted.

51. Brunei Darussalam valued the workshops and training courses organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to build the counter-terrorism capacities of Member States. Events such as the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States provided opportunities for sharing best practices and engaging with counterparts from other States. The biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy buttressed the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations and provided an occasion to identify ways in which it could be improved. Brunei Darussalam also welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), which focused on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters.

52. As terrorism tactics evolved, States not only needed to adapt their strategies and laws accordingly but also to share best practices and formulate new practical and efficient measures to neutralize the threat that terrorism posed to their peace and security. The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Order, adopted in 2005, allowed her Government to render assistance even in the absence of any formal agreement or treaty, while the Extradition Order, adopted in 2006, had facilitated the extradition of persons to and from Brunei Darussalam. At the regional level, Brunei Darussalam was working closely with other members of ASEAN in a variety of forums to exchange information, share best practices and identify focal points to facilitate cooperation.

53. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that, although the international community had achieved some progress in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, new challenges had emerged as terrorists increasingly used social media platforms, encrypted communications and the dark web to recruit new followers and to plan, finance and coordinate attacks, making detection and prevention ever more difficult. Mongolia strongly believed that international cooperation and collaboration were the only means of combating terrorism effectively and that the United Nations played a central role in the coordination of counter-terrorism efforts and the provision of technical assistance. His Government was fully committed to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and supported the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

54. Mongolia welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to provide strategic leadership to global counter-terrorism efforts. It had ratified 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and had launched a national plan of action for preventing and combating terrorism for the period 2017 to 2020, which was already being implemented. His Government had also recently signed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism and would be hosting a capacity-building workshop on countering terrorist financing, organized together with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, to strengthen the capacities of the country's law enforcement agencies and share best practices in combating terrorism.

55. **Ms. Yvard** (Thailand) said her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and that all acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable. Terrorism caused senseless loss and suffering and was a manifestation of a complete disregard for human life that weighed on the collective conscience of the international community. Her Government's anti-terrorism strategy for the period 2017 to 2021 focused on the prevention of, response to and recovery from terrorist acts. Thailand remained committed to the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and would continue

to strengthen its cooperation with other States members of ASEAN in that regard.

56. In recognition of the crucial importance of strong international legal frameworks for the effective suppression of terrorism, Thailand was a party to nine the international counter-terrorism instruments and was in the process of becoming a party to the remaining ten instruments. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy also needed to be translated into action. In that connection, her delegation hoped that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would be concluded in a timely manner and looked forward to taking part in the deliberations of the working group established with a view to finalizing the draft convention.

57. Thailand welcomed the convening of the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and the launch of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism. Thailand supported the capacity-building efforts of United Nations agencies to assist Member States in preventing, addressing and combating terrorism effectively, and had hosted a number of national and regional workshops on related topics.

58. In addition to cutting the illicit flows of financial and other resources supporting terrorist groups, States needed to redouble their efforts to address terrorism at its root by halting the spread of hateful ideologies, addressing the conditions conducive to violent extremism and radicalization in all communities, reducing poverty and injustice and promoting social and economic inclusion and education for all, starting with young children.

59. *Mr. Luna (Brazil), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

60. **Ms. Fink** (United Kingdom) said that ISIL had evolved from a territorial entity into a diffuse and covert network. Al-Qaida and its affiliates remained a persistent challenge. Groups inspired by ISIL and Al-Qaida continued to pose a threat, as did extreme right-wing groups. The most recent counter-terrorism strategy of the United Kingdom, known as CONTEST, put forward a comprehensive response to all forms of terrorism and violent extremism, emphasizing the importance of whole-of-government and whole-of society approaches to both phenomena.

61. Her Government welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), which focused on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters. It was important for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to establish a global passenger name record standard and for Member States to develop the capacity to process such data. Her Government therefore welcomed the passenger name record capacity-building project led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and ICAO and urged Member States to support that effort. The global mission to raise aviation security standards must continue, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2309 (2016), to ensure a shared global understanding of the current threat to aviation, and allow all Member States to fully meet their aviation security obligations and move towards implementing the Global Aviation Security Plan of ICAO.

62. Member States should retain their focus on tackling terrorists' use of the Internet, including by working through the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, particularly in support of smaller technology companies. The United Kingdom was cooperating with partners in the Forum to develop a policy toolkit on the Zurich-London Recommendations on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism Online, which would ensure that terrorist content was removed more swiftly and effectively.

63. Her Government welcomed the strengthened cooperation between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED, in addition to the Organization's increased engagement with the private sector, civil society, experts and researchers. Human rights and the integration of gender considerations were also vital for credible, effective and sustainable measures to combat and prevent terrorism.

64. **Ms. Bavdaž Kuret** (Slovenia) said that the threats of violent extremism and terrorism called for a multifaceted, comprehensive response encompassing an array of actions that were aligned with policies and addressed the root causes of terrorism. Such causes varied from country to country, requiring national responses to be adapted to the circumstances of the individual countries. In addition to strengthening the resilience of individuals, communities and societies to radicalism and extremism, Governments needed to empower young people, who were most susceptible to recruiters' messages, by giving them what they were seeking the most: a sense of belonging. Women also played a powerful positive role in the process of deradicalization and reintegration, especially in the case of returning foreign terrorist fighters.

65. Slovenia viewed regional cooperation, particularly in the Western Balkans region, where ISIL was seeking to establish logistical bases and to recruit new members, as the most effective means of combating terrorism. Her Government had proposed the Western Balkans

Counter-Terrorism initiative as part of the Integrative Internal Security Governance concept, both endorsed by the Council of the European Union, with a view to cooperating on security matters and preventing violent extremism, terrorism and serious and organized crime. It had also initiated an awareness-raising and capacity-building project for practitioners dealing with radicalization issues in the Western Balkans region, aimed at improving the exchange of intelligence, introducing uniform international standards for the investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences, and ensuring the secure and lawful exchange of personal data.

66. She reiterated her Government's support for the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which had achieved significant results during its first year in existence, among them the convening of the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States. Although Slovenia supported the efforts of the working group established with a view to finalizing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, it saw no need to convene an intergovernmental conference on the subject so long as the text of the draft convention had not been agreed. It was more important to ensure that the existing counter-terrorism instruments were fully implemented.

67. Slovenia supported the work of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. She also reiterated her Government's support for the Office of the Ombudsperson to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and welcomed the appointment of the new Ombudsperson.

68. **Mr. Bukoree** (Mauritius) said that his country was fully committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and consistently, unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever and for whatever purpose it was perpetrated. His Government had taken a range of preventive measures at the domestic level to combat terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Unit under the Office of the Prime Minister was now being restructured; its technology was being improved, and its staff numbers were being increased from 4 to 29. Its functions were to collect, collate and analyse terrorism-related intelligence, share that intelligence with the investigating authorities, educate the public and foster public support with a view to combating terrorism and preventing radicalization.

69. The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002 had been amended in December 2016 to strengthen the authorities' ability to arrest, monitor, investigate and prosecute returning foreign terrorist fighters. The criteria for designation as a terrorist organization had been broadened to include groups that encouraged terrorist acts. The Government had taken strict measures to prevent suspicious transactions and ensure that Mauritius was not used as a platform for the financing of terrorism. As a founding member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money-Laundering Group, Mauritius had endorsed the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force and was committed to their implementation. The country's national counter-terrorism committee met on a quarterly basis to take stock of terrorism-related issues, ensure that preparedness plans were in place, review the applicable legislation and take or follow up critical actions. The authorities of Mauritius cooperated with their counterparts to exchange information, and the staff of the Counter-Terrorism Unit had attended several workshops organized by foreign counter-terrorism experts. In all those endeavours, Mauritius took care to uphold the human rights of every individual and stressed the importance of assisting victims of terrorism.

70. The Government was in the process of finalizing its first national counter-terrorism strategy, which was derived from the Southern Africa Development Community Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy, itself based on the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was essential to build a global consensus, strengthen multilateral cooperation in combating terrorism and to examine why individuals were attracted to violent extremist groups. The best way to end violent extremism was to create open, equitable, inclusive and pluralist societies founded on full respect for human rights, with education and economic opportunities for all.

71. **Mr. Ávila** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government consistently condemned terrorism, wherever it was perpetrated, and was fully committed to implementing the necessary measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of terrorism. The Dominican Republic was a party to most global and regional counter-terrorism instruments, including those concerning the financing of terrorism. It had built bonds of cooperation to share information, knowledge and training with countries that had greater experience in combating terrorism, which enabled it to organize regular training programmes for staff of its national counter-terrorism centre and its armed forces. By Act

No. 267-08, the Government had established a national counter-terrorism committee and set out the penalties for perpetrators of terrorist acts. The authorities were currently carrying out risk assessments concerning the financing of terrorism. The Dominican Republic had taken part in projects coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the most recent of which was a training session on terrorism at international airports.

72. Terrorism posed a threat not only to peace and security, but also to social and economic development. It was therefore essential to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were consistent with the rule of law. His Government remained committed to strengthening cooperation mechanisms and measures, including the adoption of a comprehensive convention on the topic. The fight against international terrorism could be conducted only by strictly legitimate legal means that were in compliance with international human rights norms, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

73. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the United Nations had a central role to play in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts, as terrorist groups were taking advantage of porous borders and interconnected financial systems to extend their reach. The United Republic of Tanzania was committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and had taken a number of administrative and legislative measures to that end that were consistent with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It had enacted laws to prevent terrorism and money-laundering; established counter-terrorism units; introduced a community policing strategy for remote areas; and encouraged interfaith dialogue, which could also help to detect any emerging threats within communities. The country's Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance ensured that all counter-terrorism measures were consistent with human rights and the rule of law.

74. The United Republic of Tanzania was a party to nine international counter-terrorism instruments and one regional instrument. It engaged with other States to exchange information and experiences. His delegation stood ready to work with other delegations in order to reach consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

75. **Mr. Molefe** (South Africa) said that his country unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Although much had been done to combat terrorism by strengthening law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and extradition, it had become critically important to conclude a comprehensive convention on the topic. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the working group established with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention. He called on all delegations to show a constructive spirit and engage in compromise with a view to reaching an agreement on outstanding issues. For the convention to be effective, it should not conflate terrorism with peoples' legitimate aspiration for self-determination or with the struggle against colonial domination in a manner consistent with international law. Like other counter-terrorism initiatives, the draft comprehensive convention must contain provisions that protect human rights, particularly the right to life; the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of freedom, detained without trial, tortured, or treated in a cruel, inhumane or degrading way; the right of access to courts; and the universally accepted rights of arrested, detained or accused persons. The human rights of victims of terrorism should also be recognized.

76. His delegation supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Such a conference could provide an opportunity to generate momentum to finalize the draft comprehensive convention. Lastly, it was important to promote capacity-building for developing countries, which were most vulnerable to terrorist attacks but least equipped to address them.

77. **Ms. Zeytinoğlu Özkan** (Turkey) said that Turkey strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and paid its respects to the memories of the victims of terrorism. It continued to combat terrorist organizations, notably the Fethullah terrorist organization, ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and several left-wing terrorist organizations. The PKK and PYD groups were attempting to exploit developments in Syria and Iraq; however, a terrorist organization could not be legitimized on the pretext that it was fighting another terrorist organization. ISIL no longer had a state-like hierarchical structure or the resources to lure tens of thousands of recruits from around the world, but it continued to pose a serious threat. Turkey had been actively engaged in stopping foreign terrorist fighters from travelling and cutting off their sources of financing. Another priority was securing the country's 1,000-kilometre border with Syria and Iraq. As at September 2018, its no-entry list included 68,600 individuals, and it had deported 6,800 persons in the context of measures against foreign terrorist fighters.

Genuine support and intelligence feedback from partners would strengthen the impact of those measures.

78. Turkey had contributed to the work of such organizations as the United Nations, the Financial Action Task Force, Eurojust, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the European Committee on Crime Problems and the Committee of Experts on Terrorism of the Council of Europe. Turkey was an active member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and, along with Kuwait and the Netherlands, was co-chairing the Coalition's working group on foreign terrorist fighters. Over the years, Turkey had concluded bilateral agreements that provided the legal basis for cooperation against terrorism with more than 90 countries.

79. The international community must act with equal determination against all terrorist organizations: a selective approach was unacceptable. However, members of terrorist organizations, including those targeting Turkey, had been allowed to abuse the right to asylum in certain countries in order to circumvent justice. Effective fulfilment of the universal obligation to extradite or prosecute was crucial for a collective response to terrorism. It was also important to uphold human rights while countering terrorism and to address the root causes of terrorism by preventing violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations.

80. Turkey was a party to most of the United Nations conventions and protocols on terrorism. It attached great importance to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across all its four pillars, had actively participated in consultations as part of the sixth periodic review of the Strategy, and contributed actively to the efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. It appreciated the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the convening of the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, which had helped to build new partnerships in the fight against terrorism. Her delegation hoped that progress would be achieved in the negotiations aimed at formulating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

81. **Mr. Hitti** (Lebanon) said that terrorism could be prevented and combated only through a comprehensive approach. Lebanon condemned terrorism in the strongest terms and remained committed to its international obligations in that regard, including under the international instruments to which it was a party, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Lebanon was one of the signatories of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, which could play a valuable part in bolstering collective action to eradicate terrorist acts.

82. Lebanese forces had defeated ISIL on Lebanese territory and dismantled terrorist cells. The country had also made significant progress towards preventing the financing of terrorism. In 2018, the Government had adopted a national strategy for the prevention of violent extremism, with a particular focus on youth.

83. The word "terrorism" had unfortunately come to be used loosely and exploited for such purposes as spreading hatred against a given religion. However, the roots of terrorist acts did not lie in religions, ethnic groups or nationalities. Terrorism could not be equated with the right to resist foreign occupation. Such a step misrepresented international law and sought to undermine the basic rights of people struggling for their independence.

84. In order to address the roots of terrorist ideology, it was essential to tackle poverty, exclusion, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, oppression and the denial of basic rights. While it would be simplistic to assume that terrorist ideology grew systemically out of social or economic despair, addressing those drivers would help to stem the problem. Indeed, when the item had first been added to the agenda of the Committee, its title had been "Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangers or takes innocent human lives or jeopardizes fundamental freedoms and study of the underlying causes of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and which cause some people to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes".

85. His delegation commended the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the convening of the first High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

86. **Ms. Syrota** (Ukraine) said that in recent decades, the threat posed by terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Taliban, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab had become global. Terrorist attacks around the world were causing death, injury and displacement and spreading fear in societies. The tactics of terrorists were becoming more sophisticated, and their mentors and sponsors were becoming crueller and more ambitious. In 2016, a total of 25,673 persons from 106 countries had died as a result of terrorist attacks.

87. Resolute commitment and action from the entire international community were required to tackle the threats posed by international terrorism and violent extremism. In that connection, a number of important

steps had been taken over the past year to consolidate the international response to those threats, including measures relating to terrorist financing, the supply of weapons to terrorists, returning foreign terrorist fighters, terrorist propaganda, the protection of critical infrastructure, aviation security and coordination and coherence among United Nations entities. General Assembly resolution 72/284, adopted following the sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, could serve as a road map for strengthening joint counter-terrorism efforts and addressing the root causes of terrorism and the conditions conducive to its spread.

88. Ukraine welcomed the diplomatic and military efforts of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and would continue to participate in those activities. Ukraine had already identified six ISIL transnational logistics networks that had been recruiting, training, financing and transporting fighters; it had also dismantled 23 transfer points used for the temporary accommodation of foreign terrorist fighters and detained 60 members and supporters of ISIL. It stood ready to provide logistical support for military operations against the group.

89. Terrorism and violent extremism continued to threaten human rights, the rule of law, democracy, equality and freedom. Member States should do more to address the governance deficit, promote social development and respect of the rule of law, develop strategic communications strategies, counter terrorist ideology, and engage civil society, women and young people in counter-terrorism efforts. The United Nations system could support States by providing assistance in tackling the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, curbing the supply of funds and weapons to terrorists, promoting respect for human rights and the rule of law in counter-terrorism efforts and enhancing international judicial cooperation to prevent impunity.

90. Ukraine, a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 72/165, concerning the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, continued to stand in solidarity with victims of terrorism. All perpetrators, organizers, mentors and sponsors of acts of terrorism must be brought to justice.

91. Terrorism and violent extremism continued to threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Nearly 10 years had passed since the Russian Federation had launched its hybrid aggression against Ukraine, thereby violating many of its fundamental obligations under international law, including the obligations to refrain from providing any form of support to terrorists, to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists, to suppress the recruitment and movement of foreign terrorist fighters and to prohibit terrorist incitement.

92. The increase in State-sponsored terrorism throughout the world was detrimental to global counter-terrorism efforts. The need to hold to account not only individuals and organizations but also States responsible for organizing, encouraging, providing training or otherwise directly or indirectly supporting terrorist activities should be duly reflected in the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would be an important addition to the existing international legal counter-terrorism framework.

93. The absence of a strong and unified response to crimes would ultimately result in the irreparable destruction of the rules-based world order. The international community must therefore defend international law to ensure that the perpetrators of each and every violation of fundamental norms and principles were held to account.

94. **Ms. Weiss Ma'udi** (Israel) said that the State of Israel faced daily threats from various terrorist groups and actors using a variety of tactics and methods that challenged law-abiding nations, including the notorious and ubiquitous practice of employing human shields from behind which they stockpiled weapons and perpetrated heinous terrorist acts. Terrorists also regularly hid amongst civilians to launch attacks against other civilians, thereby committing two war crimes at the same time: endangering the lives of civilians and targeting civilians. Too often, however, the international community focused not on terrorists' human-shield tactics, but on the response of the State threatened by those terrorists. When human shields lost their lives or were harmed and injured, the international community should focus first on the actions and methodologies of the terrorists and place the blame squarely on their shoulders, rather than point an accusatory finger at the State grappling with that despicable tactic. Fortunately, the international community had come together and condemned that abhorrent practice during the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. While that condemnation was commendable and noteworthy, it was only a first step.

95. Her Government, on the other hand, was seeking legal tools to combat terrorism effectively while honouring its domestic and international obligations and upholding the principles of the rule of law and the value of life, despite having to deal with an enemy that had no regard for such obligations. In 2016 her Government had adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism law that included precise definitions of terrorist acts, criminalized

the provision of support for terrorists and terrorist acts, and provided for enhanced due process protections.

96. Israel had also made great strides towards combating the financing of terrorism, which was a serious transnational and global challenge. In 2016 Israel had gained observer status in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and was in the process of becoming a full member. Her Government was eager to exchange views and best practices and collaborate with other States on specific cases. The international community should employ more advanced methodologies and tools to combat terrorist financing, taking into account the various means used by terrorists to raise funds. For example, funds intended for social services or charitable purposes were sometimes transferred to organizations that used them to support terrorist activities. In some cases, Governments even provided monetary awards or stipends for terrorists or their families, thereby providing both the means and the incentive to carry out attacks. States must continuously review their counter-terrorism legislation and criteria for providing foreign and humanitarian assistance, to ensure that they were not inadvertently facilitating terrorist financing. Israel had participated in the International Conference on Combating the Financing of Daesh and Al-Qaeda in April 2018 and was ready to participate in other forums in the future.

97. Another major threat was the use of the Internet, including social media, for the purposes of incitement to terrorism, dissemination of hate speech, glorification of terrorism and recruitment of terrorists. It was essential to develop tools to prevent and provide protection against incitement while safeguarding the right to freedom of expression.

98. Civil society had an important role to play in the essential task of supporting and promoting resilience among victims of terrorism and their families and communities. Israel was committed to sharing its experience, best practices and expertise in that regard.

99. Israel recognized the importance of international cooperation and the role of the United Nations in the fight against global terrorism. It was an active participant in global counter-terrorism efforts and was a party to the core international counter-terrorism conventions and instruments. It had also supported the sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Her Government also recognized the need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would enshrine a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism and would not admit any justification for any form or manifestation of terrorism. It was unfortunate that certain delegations had advocated an alternative approach that would excuse or support terrorism in certain situations.

100. The annual Sixth Committee session should be a springboard for action at the national and international levels to develop and promote legal tools and remedies that would make a meaningful contribution to combating terrorism by lawful means. Law should not be confused with politics, as often occurred in the context of counter-terrorism. It was important to avoid the selective application of legal principles, and terrorist acts must never be misrepresented for political reasons.

101. **Ms. Pierce** (United States of America) said that all terrorist acts, by whomever committed, were criminal, inhumane and unjustifiable, regardless of motivation. Her delegation reiterated its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its commitment to the fight to end it, including by participating in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. Joint international efforts were needed to prevent such heinous acts, and in that regard, the United Nations had a critical role to play in mobilizing the international community, building capacity and facilitating technical assistance to Member States in implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and relevant resolutions.

102. The four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy were as relevant as ever, and the biennial General Assembly resolution on the review of the Strategy had given the Secretariat the guidance it needed to help Member States implement the Strategy, despite containing several serious flaws that her delegation hoped would be rectified in future resolutions. Through its unanimous adoption of resolution 2396 (2017), the Security Council had made a significant contribution to the global counter-terrorism framework by creating new international obligations and highlighting actions that were needed to strengthen border security and information sharing, enhance judicial measures and international cooperation, ensure the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration, as appropriate, of foreign terrorist fighters and their family members, strengthen the protection of public spaces and soft targets and prevent terrorists from traveling between countries. The new obligations concerning passenger name record data, advanced passenger information, biometrics and watchlists contained in the resolution were all vital counter-terrorism tools.

103. As part of the international effort to combat ISIL operations outside Iraq and Syria, Member States must also make themselves less susceptible to the threat of terrorism by pursuing the goal of elevating aviation security standards globally set out in Security Council

resolution 2309 (2016), including by countering insider threats and deploying next-generation technologies. A number of Security Council resolutions adopted over the past year underscored the counter-terrorism role of all elements of government, including ministries of finance, justice, the interior and information and communications.

104. Results were being achieved. The implementation by Member States of resolution 2178 (2014), concerning foreign terrorist fighters, combined with intense military pressure from the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, had made a tremendous impact on the ground in Syria and Iraq, where ISIL had lost 99 per cent of the territory it once held. Her Government had information-sharing arrangements with almost 70 international partners to help identify, track and deter known and suspected terrorists. All Member States could learn from each other's experiences, but much more needed to be done to fully implement Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017).

105. Her delegation firmly supported the efforts of the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other multilateral bodies, civil society and non-governmental organizations aimed at developing practical tools to further the United Nations counter-terrorism framework. Continued coordination was needed among the various United Nations entities and external partners such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum and its related initiatives and platforms, which advanced the practical implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through training, capacity-building and grant-making efforts for community-based projects to prevent and counter violent extremism. In that connection, her delegation welcomed the close cooperation and partnership between the United Nations and the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

106. Her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and called for close coordination between the Office and CTED. It also welcomed the joint report submitted by the two entities, pursuant to resolution 2395 (2017), setting out ways to improve coordination between them in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building. The Office and CTED must also pursue an approach to implementing the Global Strategy and the recommendations of the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism in which the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law was recognized. Counter-terrorism efforts that came at the expense of human rights and the rule of law were counterproductive and often bolstered terrorist narratives.

107. Domestically, the United States was continuing to raise community awareness of violent extremism, radicalization and recruitment dynamics and to provide community leaders with tools and resources to work on prevention efforts. One continuing area of work was state and local intervention services for individuals headed down a path toward violent extremism or radicalization before a crime was committed.

108. It was important to counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes while also respecting the right to freedom of expression and recognizing that the Internet was just one of many tools used by terrorists. The United States was taking law enforcement action against criminal activities online and had also worked to strengthen and expand its voluntary collaboration and partnerships with private technology companies. Her delegation commended the efforts of the industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism and the Tech Against Terrorism initiative. Member States must seek to build long-term resilience to terrorist messages by collaborating with youth to cultivate critical thinking skills and online public safety awareness in communities. The United States, recognizing that the problem could not be solved by Governments and private companies alone, was also seeking to involve civil society, academia and community leaders in the development of a long-term comprehensive solution.

109. All Member States should provide the United Nations system actors and other relevant stakeholders with sufficient resources to deliver required technical assistance and generate more effective solutions. In that regard, her Government continued to make voluntary contributions to the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute for the development of research, assistance and training. It encouraged other Member States to share the burden of helping the United Nations improve its own work and provide technical and capacity-building assistance across a range of issues addressed by the Global Strategy, including preventing and countering violent extremism, and implementing relevant Security Council resolutions, such as resolution 2396 (2017).

110. While the international community had made significant progress in developing a robust legal counter-terrorism regime, much remained to be done. The existing international counter-terrorism instruments would be effective only if they were widely ratified and implemented. She drew particular attention to the six instruments concluded since 2005 on such issues as the

suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, the physical protection of nuclear material and the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation, unlawful acts relating to international civil aviation and unlawful seizure of aircraft.

111. Her delegation remained willing to work with other States to build on and enhance the international counter-terrorism framework and would listen carefully to the statements of other delegations concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The United Nations must send united and unambiguous signals with regard to terrorism.

112. **Mr. Kim** In Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that terrorism, which had spread across the world in recent years, had a similar impact to war in that it undermined regional stability, claimed human lives and caused significant displacement. The current refugee crisis highlighted the gravity of the effects of terrorism. The number of forcibly displaced persons around the world had reached 68.5 million in 2017, and refugees from conflict areas in the Middle East and North Africa continued to risk their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Terrorism was taking a huge toll on the world, and the international community had made no noticeable progress towards eliminating it. It was unclear whether the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States would produce any tangible results.

113. The current situation was primarily attributable to successive armed attacks against disobedient countries and the illegal and outrageous crime of overthrowing other States' Governments perpetrated by one permanent member of the Security Council under the pretext of protecting freedom and democracy and countering terrorism. Military aggression and politically motivated terrorist acts had triggered a vicious cycle of terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya and led to the emergence of ISIL. The continuing failure of the international community to eliminate terrorism despite international efforts and cooperation was due to the exploitation by one country of the issue of counter-terrorism for its own selfish, political and military purposes. The act of overthrowing a State's Government under the guise of counter-terrorism amounted to State-sponsored terrorism and should not be tolerated. Such actions ran counter to the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs and were thus flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The country that was committing such State-sponsored terrorism would soon reveal itself as the true ringleader of terrorism and would not be able to avoid denunciation, rejection and isolation by the international community.

114. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea supported and stood in solidarity with the Government and people of Syria in their efforts to protect the security and territorial integrity of their country. It also condemned in the strongest terms the drone attack carried out in an attempt to assassinate the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in August 2018. His country extended its full support to the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in its efforts to investigate that terrorist act and to bring the perpetrators and their accomplices to justice.

115. His Government rejected the attempt by the Government of the United States to tarnish the international image of his country by designating it as a State sponsor of terrorism. That act was simply a reflection of the desire of the United States to put pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by ramping up sanctions against it. His Government would continue to work to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the world.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*